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**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, March 22,  
1824, from Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe  
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.  
Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

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**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson**

Washington March 22d. 1824

Dear Sir

Such has been the pressure on me of late, that I have not had a moment to pay attention or even answer the calls of my friends. I have felt that I had faild, both to you and to Mr. Madison. There have been several candidates under me in the admn. for the office which I hold, and such the activity & animosity of their respective advocates & friends, toward the rival candidates, that my situation has been peculiarly embarrassing. In the appointment to office I have been forc'd either to distribute the offices among the friends of the candidates to guard myself against the imputation of favoritism or to take my own course, and appoint those whom I knew & confided in, without regard to them. Had I pursued the former, the office in my hands, for two or three years of the latter term would have sunk to nothing. I therefore adopted the former, and have steadily pursued it, believing that I had given sufficient proof, of respect

for, and confidence in each, of the members of the administration, by appointing & continuing him in his place.

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From Europe we have nothing of late to vary the view which is exhibited to the public in the gazettes.

Dr. Foushee still lives. Governor Preston had applied for the post office at Richmond & I had some years since given him some hope of obtaining it should a vacancy occur while I am here; but my earnest hope is that matters may take such a shape, as to enable me to meet your wishes in regard to Col. Peyton before my retirement.

My particular motive is to state to you a communication which was lately made to be by Mr. Livingston. He assured me, that it was an object of deep interest to him, to know that you entertained no unkind feelings towards him-that he earnestly wished to be restored to the footing which he held in your estimation some 25 years since. I told him that I was satisfied the intimation of that sentiment on his part, would be gratifying to you. If you

are willing that I should say any thing to him on the subject, trace, what it shall be, and I shall be happy to be the organ.

With great respect and sincere regard dear Sir yours James Monroe

RC (Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress).